

The CEO of Ducks Unlimited said:

More than 140 million Americans participate in outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and fishing. DU appreciates the bipartisan effort of this bill in bringing to light the economic impact and importance of sports men and women to the United States. We are also grateful for its inclusion of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which is an ideal model for successful private-public partnerships.

I agree. We have an opportunity today to take action on a bill that advances critical priorities for a wide range of sportsmen and conservation groups across the country, bringing those two groups together.

I am proud of the package Senator MURKOWSKI and I crafted and put together. I also recognize that Members on both sides of the aisle have ideas on how to strengthen this bill.

It was always my hope we could take up, debate, and vote on sportsmen-related amendments to the bill, including amendments on some gun issues that are important to sports men and women in my State and across the country. I am disappointed we were not able to reach an agreement to do so.

However, we should not let partisan politics get in the way of passing a good bill that already has strong bipartisan support. It is fiscally responsible, and it is endorsed by more than 40 groups and stakeholders across the United States—6 of whom I have just made statements about from letters we have received.

So here is what I am going to ask all of my colleagues to do today: If you support this bill, vote for this bill. Outdoor recreation activities are a way of life in States across the country. Just as importantly, they are the lifeblood of many of our local communities. These activities actually contribute \$145 billion to our economy every year, and they support over 6 million jobs in this country. This is big business—and especially at a time when we are looking at jobs and the economic recovery.

So at a time when we are desperately trying to help the job market and get our economy back on track, I urge my colleagues to please put politics aside and vote to move forward with this balanced bipartisan bill that boosts our economy, protects our outdoor traditions, and preserves the special places in this country where we hunt, where we fish, where we enjoy the outdoors, and to do this for our future generations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, S.2363. This legislation aims to support outdoor recreation by improving access for anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters. It would also advance conservation by reauthorizing programs that protect wildlife species and habitats, wetlands, migratory birds, and waterfowl.

Hunting, angling, outdoor recreation, and conservation are important economic contributors and support jobs in communities across the country, including many across the State of

Maine. The Federal Government is an important partner in preserving our natural treasures, enhancing recreation, promoting economic growth, and helping to protect the environment, which are all components in sustaining our Nation's outdoor heritage and traditions.

While I understand the concerns that have been raised about the need to strengthen the bill's conservation measures, on balance S.2363 would benefit hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation. One provision would promote hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Federal public lands, preventing arbitrary closures. Another would help States construct and maintain public shooting ranges by allowing a larger proportion of Federal funding to be used for this purpose. Additionally, the bill would reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which leverage funding for critical wetlands, migratory birds, native fish and wildlife species, and habitat projects. A permanent authorization of electronic duck stamps, the proceeds of which go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, is also included in the bill.

I am also pleased to be the sponsor of a bipartisan amendment that highlights the many important contributions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the last 50 years. In addition to calling for the reauthorization of this landmark conservation program, the amendment calls for full, permanent, and dedicated funding, making good on the promise that was made to the American people in 1964 to take the proceeds from natural resource development and invest a small portion in conservation and outdoor recreation. I am deeply concerned about the continued annual diversion of these funds from their original conservation intent to other purposes. We will not balance our Nation's books today by shortchanging our future.

Upholding Maine's strong tradition of outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, and protecting access to the great outdoors for the enjoyment of all Americans continue to be priorities of mine. I also strongly support conservation programs and actions to preserve wildlife and natural habitats. The people of Maine have always been faithful stewards of our environment because we understand its tremendous value to our way of life. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act would have a positive impact on hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation, and I support its passage.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2363, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2363) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Udall (CO)/Risch) amendment No. 3469, to clarify a provision relating to the nonfederal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.

Reid amendment No. 3490 (to amendment No. 3469), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 3491, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3492 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3491), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3493 (to amendment No. 3492), of a perfecting nature.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Patrick J. Leahy, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Mark Begich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Joe Donnelly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 41, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 220 Leg.]

YEAS—41

Baldwin  
Begich

Bennet  
Brown

Cantwell  
Carper